



Trumbull County Board of Elections

2947 Youngstown Road SE, Warren, Ohio 44484

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www.electionohio.com/trumbull

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August 11, 2006

MUR # 5795

Federal Election Commission

Office of General Counsel

999 E. Street NW
Washington DC 20463

RE: Randy D. Walter's 2000 Campaign - 17th Congressional District

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Trumbull County Board of Elections met on August 8, 2006 and voted unanimously to refer to your office the enclosed complaint regarding Randy D. Walter, Candidate, 17th Congressional District, for the year 2000 election. Our Board believes that further investigation is required in this matter to ensure any and all individuals will be held accountable for campaign reports falsification. Enclosed are an original and three copies of the Complaint. A copy of the cassette recording containing evidence of apparent campaign reporting violations is also enclosed for your information.

I want to thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Your handling of this case will greatly help our office to promote the integrity and orderliness of the election process.

Truly yours,

Kelly S. Pallante
Director

Enclosures

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
AUG 14 11:06 AM
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL
999 E Street, NW
Washington, DC 20463

MUR # 5795

Trumbull County Board of Elections
2947 Youngstown Rd. SE
Warren, Ohio 44484
(330)369-4050

Complainant

COMPLAINT

Randy D. Walter

Canfield, Ohio 44406

Respondent

2006 AUG 14 A 11:06

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

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On or about June 5, 2006 an investigation by the Trumbull County Board of Elections began in regard to irregularities contained in the nominating petition for the independent candidacy of Randy D. Walter for the Ohio 17th Congressional District.

During the investigation several occurrences of apparent election falsification, a felony of the fifth degree, by petition circulators were uncovered and referred to the Trumbull County Prosecutor. Also brought to light in the investigation were apparent illegal campaign contributions that occurred in an earlier campaign by Randy D. Walter.

An interview occurred in the office of the Trumbull County Prosecutor on June 21, 2006 where the following discussion took place between assistant county prosecutors and Mr. Patrick Vanetti who kept the books for Mr. Walter's campaign for Ohio's 17th Congressional District in 2000:

Q: Do you know anything else about any deficient petitions or election chicanery that we haven't talked about, either this time or historically?

A: Even six years ago?

Q: Yes.

A: Yeah. I, uh... Randy had told me that, back than I was handling all the money that came in...

Q: This was six years ago?

A: Yeah, and uh, there was times that I was given cash and told to uh, find people's names to put it under.

Q: So you were the treasurer for his campaign in essence?

A: I was not the treasurer. His sister was actually put down as the treasurer. I was the one that handled all of the checks coming in, all of the cash coming in.

Q: Do you have any idea how much cash you were given?

A: I remember times where I was given \$1000 in cash. I believe you were only allowed to put up to, uh \$60 per, um, per person in cash or, uh, under \$100 was the most. I don't remember what it was.

Q: What names did you use?

A: He told me to pick names. He said put your relatives or do whatever so.

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Q: Ok, so that's what I'm asking you, what names did you use?

A: Yeah, I think I put, I put down some of my relatives. I think I put my brothers and sisters and my parents and...

Q: If we showed you a list of his campaign contributions from six years ago do you think that that might help?

A: Yeah. I can tell you anyone from my family and there might have been some people from work that I had asked them if I could put their names down.

Q: This question will be a little more specific.

A: Ok.

Q: He gave you certain amounts of money...

A: Yes.

Q: that, are we to assume were donations...

A: Yes.

Q: or he wanted you to justify them as donations on the books?

A: He wanted me to justify them as donations on the books.

Q: So you think this was his own money

A: I don't, that I don't know.

Q: You don't know where this money came from.

A: Right. I don't know, have any idea where the money came from.

The above exchange is contained in the enclosed tape towards the end of side A. It is respectfully submitted that the information revealed therein demonstrates violations of federal election law including but not limited to 2 USCS § 441f and 2 USCS § 441g.

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The Trumbull County Board of Elections respectfully requests the Office of General Counsel, Federal Elections Commission to review this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Trumbull County Board of Elections

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Ronald A. Knight, Member

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Barbara A. Katzenberger, Member

Kelly Pallante
Kelly Pallante, Director

Rokey W. Suleman
Rokey W. Suleman, II
Deputy Director

All of the above sworn to and subscribed in my presence this 8th day of August, 2006.

James T. Saker
Notary Public
James T. Saker
Attorney at Law
My Commission has no
expiration date

26044152853